



Editorial

Congratulations Dr Reginald Ho

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Dr Reginald Ho

For the first time the prestigious LaSalle D. Leffall Jr. Award has been given to a physician from Hawaii, Reginald C.S. Ho, MD, Straub Clinic & Hospital oncologist, was chosen for the honor based on his outstanding and continuing work with cancer patients. Dr Ho received the award April 26 during the 6th Biennial Symposium on Minorities, The Medically Underserved & Cancer in Washington D.C.

In addition to Dr Ho's practice at Straub Clinic & Hospital, he is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii and a Clinical Science Adjunct Professor at the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii. He also sits on the Intercultural Cancer Council, is a Co-investor with the PLCO (Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial), and is a past national president of the

American Cancer Society. Dr Ho is widely known for his treatment of pain in cancer patients which he promoted during his tenure as national president of the ACS in 1993. Dr. Reginald Ho was also Hawaii Medical Association Physician of the Year in 1994. The LaSalle D. Leffall Jr. Award is given to an individual who has distinguished him/herself in addressing the cancer crisis in minorities or under-served communities through educational programs, clinical service, research, or public awareness. During Dr Ho's term as ACS National President, he was concerned about the national surveys which showed that pain in cancer patients was inadequately treated and that most patients dying of cancer died in pain.

"These surveys came out of not only city hospitals but from our most prestigious cancer hospitals as well," Dr Ho states. Following the survey, he organized a task force of experts in cancer pain who helped the ACS develop a program to address this issue.

Dr Ho believes that cancer pain was not adequately treated due myths such as; (1) Pain is an expected part of cancer and should be endured, and (2) patients taking narcotics for cancer pain usually become addicted. He states, "No cancer pain should be endured. Cancer pain can be relieved 90% of the time with relatively simple treatments, and with more effort the rest of the time. Patients should not be afraid to take pain medications at the dosages prescribed by their doctors; patients rarely become addicted. It's also very helpful for the cancer patient to develop a positive attitude with meditation and prayer. And, I recommend that cancer patients understand their right to expect pain relief."

Look for our special issue on Pain.

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